

HELLO AGAIN

VOL 19 NO. 1

JAN-FEB 1988

A PERSONAL NOTE: Many thanks for holiday cards. Greg Jackson sent his annual card with a 1929 Christmas seal and 2 pictures with Dorothy Lamour and Vincent Price with original captions...ADRIENNE AND ANTHONY TOLLIN are the proud parents of a baby girl, Katrina Gale...#140-148 of my collectors list now available for a SASE.

CONVENTION '87: For a video tape, send \$20 to Don Ramlow, 509 Velvet St, Portage, MI 49081.

CONVENTION '88: Our first committee meeting was held Jan. 31st. Tentative thoughts: Some of our new guests will be chosen from Gale Storm, Norman Corwin, Carlton E Morse, Candy Candido, Lawrence Dobkin, Richard Widmark, Kirk Allen, Hildegard, Elliot Lewis, Phil Harris and Alice Faye, Howard Koch, John Houseman, Howard Duff. Some tentative activities will be panels on War of the World, Superman, restoration of radios, commercials and ads, newscasters, lending libraries, Gunsmoke and other adult westerns. Some re-creations to be chosen from are Let's Pretend, My Little Margie, Superman, Gateway to Hollywood. The convention will start on Thursday with a cocktail hour, dinner (3 choices of food - sit down dinner), informal panel, trivia, sing-a-long. It will continue Friday and Saturday.

RADIO IS ALIVE AND WELL: The Boston Arts Group, 285 Washington St, Somerville, MA 02143 puts on a 90 minute show with excerpts of several OTR shows. They are coming to Hamden April 9th. Does anyone know the source of their material or have heard them before?...Audrey Marsh and her husband, Ted Monk, frequent attendees at our convention before moving to California, have started a branch of the Veteran's Bedside Network in Loma Linda at the alcohol treatment program at Jerry L Pettis Memorial Veteran's Hospital. The patients are used as actors, music, and sound effects artists...BOB BURNHAM will start an OTR show on WCAR-AM, 1090, Detroit, in February. More details as they arrive...Starmagic, a Teaneck, NJ-based radio programmer, is planning to enter the radio "movie" field with Radio Theater, a new, 90-minute weekly series of original Hollywood classic movie soundtracks. The program, targeted for AM stations, was scheduled to start January with the 1947 film, "It's a Wonderful Life"...The Steve Allen Show heard weekdays in New York from 10 AM - 2 PM on WNEW will be picked up by Mutual. The last two hours will be syndicated on a national basis.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED: TAPE SQUEAL, Nov-Dec; article on members James and Ethel Lee. "Eye on the Sparrow" was based on their lives...METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON OTR NEWS, Dec-Jan, articles on radio sounds of World War II. Jack French reports on our convention...NOSTALGIA DIGEST, Dec-Jan, article on Bing Crosby...An interview with Frankie Thomas by Gregory Jackson, Jr is in Nov-Dec issue of Yellowback Library. This publication deals with series books, dime novels and related literature. For info on this pub write Greg. Address previously mentioned...ILLUSTRATED PRESS, Dec, articles on Arthur Godfrey, Douglas Edwards; also a tongue-in-cheek review of our convention by Frank Boncore...NOT RECEIVED for many months is THE SOUNDS OF YESTERDAY. The last address I have for Paul Anderson is 208 So. Main #7, Midvale, UT

{ } If box is checked, \$10 is due for another year

84047; another address given to me is 7311 South 145 East, Midvale. Can anyone help with information. My letter went unanswered...JACK BENNY TIMES, Sep-Oct, Nov-Dec; interview with Dennis Day...OLD TIME RADIO DIGEST; NOV-DEC; issue devoted to Lum and Abner...SPERDVAC RADIOGRAM, Jan; highlights of their recent convention. It was featured on Entertainment Tonight in December.

BOOKS and MAGAZINES: McFarland & Co., Box 611, Jefferson, NC 28640 has published 2 more books: The first is Television Westerns, Major and Minor Series, 1946-78; by Richard West, 1987, \$19.95. West gives us detailed descriptions of every western produced including theme, cast, air dates and times (168 pages)...Second book is Bing Crosby, A Comprehensive discography, Radio Program List and filmography; compiled by Timothy Morgereth, 1987, \$49.95; 550 pages. The first section lists, in chronological order, all 78 r.p.m. recordings from the United States and several other countries; the second section lists chronologically all radio appearances. All of Bing Crosby's radio series are listed with each performance and the song(s) sung from Paul Whiteman to the GE series. The final section lists all film appearances with credits, song titles. I recommend both books.

Bob Proctor mentions that Orson Welles' only novel, "Mr. Arkadin," written in 1955 has been reprinted in paperback by Zebra Books, Kensington Pub. Co, 475 Park Ave. South, NYC, NY 10016; \$3.50. the plot line is almost the same as The Lives of Harry Lime radio show, "Man of Mystery."

CLUBS: The OLDTIME RADIO-SHOW COLLECTOR'S ASSOCIATION (ORCA) is actively seeking members. You can remain loyal to your own local club and still belong. Write Reg Hubert, 45 Barry St, Sudbury, Ontario, Canada P3B 3H6. Barry Hill heads the chapter in England.

CONVENTIONS: The annual convention of the International Al Jolson Society is May 20-22, 1988 at Days Inn, Newton, Mass. For info call Dwane Hagerty, 617-664-2995.

LOGS: During February and March I am offering discounts on three of my logs: Suspense Log (\$6.00). Usually it is \$8. It is complete and the 40 pages feature a chronological and alphabetical listing with many details such as cast, directors, musicians, etc...Also my Network log (105 pages - details on dates, sponsors, network, etc on over 1600 shows) for \$14 (usually \$18); also my log on circulating shows (70 pages) for \$18 (usually \$23) (includes all 4 supplements)...RAY STANICH, 173 Columbia Hts, Brooklyn, NY 11201 has a new log; ROMANCE. It is complete (1943-57) and costs \$4.00 mailed first class.

NEW ADDRESSES: Geoff Oates, Box 402, Stawell, Vic, 3380, Australia. Geoff was a frequent attendee at our conventions.

NEW FRIENDS AND RETURNEES: BARRY ATKINS, Rt 66, Columbia, CT 06237...CHUCK POWELL, 1914 West Melvina, Milwaukee, WI 53206...ROGER WHITE, 539-D, Tranquil Ct, Odenton, MD 21113...RONALD WAITE, 578 Whitney Ave, New Haven, CT 06511; Ronald is interested in Jack Benny...C G PATON, 203-770 Wonderland, RD. S., London, Ontario, Canada N6K 1M3...KEVIN MOLONEY, 281 Garth Rd, Scarsdale, NY 10583...EDWARD GREENE, 100 Garden City Plaza, Garden City, NY 11530...GORDON GOULD, Box 612, Capreol, Ontario, Canada P0M 1H0...DAVID KALAKORE, 662 E 8th St, Brooklyn, NY 11236...HERBERT RICE, Box

1431, Marco Island, FL 33969. Herbert created and wrote the Bobby Benson Adventures...ROBERT MARTINACK, Flatley Ave, Manchester, MA 01944...JIM SHAW, 3860 Vista Dr, North Bend, OR 97459...RICHARD DUMONT (Nostalgia Shop), 2980 Whitney Ave, Hamden, CT 06518. Richard and his son, Rick, have the only nostalgia store in the area. Right now they concentrate on comics, pulps, Tarzan books and magazines, old books, science fiction, big little books. They want to get into OTR.

OLD FRIENDS: NATALIE McNAMEE looking for name of show which had recurring line, "Mama, Mama, it's that man again."...MARTY LEWIN, 8836 N. Lincolnwood Dr, Evanston, IL 60203 looking for Sid McCoy Show (a Chicago D J from the 50's and 60's; also any new Phil Harris-Alice Faye Shows...CHUCK JUZEK, 57 Hutton Ave, Nanuet, NY 10954 would like any information about Maurice Joachim who wrote some of the scripts for THE AVENGER. This series was based on Richard Henry Benson of the pulps and was aired on WHN in New York in 1941 for at least 33 episodes. The first episode was 7/25/41. This was a different show from the one written by Walter Gibson in 1945-46 about Jim Brandon...BOB PROCTOR, Box 362, Saline, MI 48176 wants Horatio Hornblower shows with Michael Redgrave...TOM PRICE, Box 1661, Salinas, CA 93902 has ordered a second printing of Heavenly Days. They can now be obtained from him...BILL ANTHONY, 1684 Beryl Dr, Pittsburgh, PA 15227 wants to join lending libraries...RICHARD PALANIK, 165 Summitt St, Plantsville, CT 06479 looking for copies of NPR's DOC SAVAGE SHOWS and NIGHTFALL.

IN FOND MEMORY: IRENE WICKER HAMMER, Nov 17, 86; The Singing Lady on radio almost continuously from 1931-1975. She was a guest at our convention in 1975...BETTY CORDAY, Nov 17, 75; executive producer and co-creator of Days of Our Lives; in radio produced Pepper Young's Family and Young Dr. Malone...JAMES DOBSON, Dec 6, 67; actor (Right to Happiness)...GEORGE FISHER, Dec 9, 78; Hollywood reporter on radio and tv...MILTON JOSEFSBERG, Dec 14, 76; veteran comedy writer (Jack Benny, Bob Hope). He wrote one of three books about Jack Benny...JAMES McCracken, Dec 19, 78; radio script writer for ZIV (Boston Blackie, Cisco Kid)...PARKER FENNELLY, Jan 22, 96; last of Allen's Alley characters. We had a phone conversation with him on his 90th birthday at our convention...COLLEEN MOORE, Jan 25, 85; actress (Radio - Safety Legion Time)...PATRICK McGEEHAN, Jan 3, 80; radio actor and announcer (Aunt Mary, Red Skelton, Strange as it Seems)

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JAY HICKERSON, Box 4321, Hamden, Ct 06514 (203) 248-2887 \$10/year

A hearty 'Hi Yo, Silver!'

'Lone Ranger' radio announcer rides again

By JAMES H. DONALD
Journal-Bulletin Staff Writer

READING, Mass. — Leaning into the microphone, right hand to his ear in the style of oldtime radio performers, the tall, rugged man recounted the exciting message that stirred millions of listeners for more than a decade.

"A fiery horse with the speed of light," he began, the familiar voice rising in pitch. "A cloud of dust and a hearty Hi Yo, Silver! The Lone Ranger! With his faithful Indian companion, Tonto, the daring and resourceful masked rider of the Plains led the fight for law and order in the early western United States. Nowhere in the pages of history can one find a greater champion of justice. Return with us now to those thrilling days of yesteryear. From out of the past come the thundering hoofbeats of the great horse, Silver. The Lone Ranger rides again. Hi Yo, Silver!"

All but forgotten now, except by the entertainment industry, Fred Foy is living quietly with his wife, Frances, in this Boston suburb.

He is 66, but the rich baritone voice of the famed radio announcer can still generate goosebumps.

After the brief delivery, which many Lone Ranger fans can recite by heart, and which glued a generation of ears to radios during the '40s and '50s, the handsome announcer with the thin

grayish-blond hair laughed at the suggestion that he actually played the famous masked crusader of the Old West.

"No," he said with a laugh, "the real Lone Ranger was Brace Beemer. I filled in for him only once when he showed up at the studio one day with a severe case of laryngitis."

Nevertheless, it's easy to visualize Foy astride the magnificent stallion, galloping across the dusty plains in pursuit of evildoers. His athletic physique and voice convey the image many people have of the Lone Ranger. Ramrod straight, Foy stands a little over six feet and weighs 195 pounds.

"Brace fit the image, too," he said. "He was a tall, handsome outdoorsman who would not have disappointed you in his role as the Lone Ranger. There was a slight similarity in our voices, but I was not often mistaken for him."

Foy's radio career began in 1940 in his native Detroit at WMBC, a 250-watt station where would-be actors got a chance to display their talent. "We received no money, just experience," he smiled at the recollection.

The rest is history, and includes 10 years of announcing the Lone Ranger live from a studio in Detroit, and later, 22 years of working for the American Broadcasting Co. in New York.

His career later branched into television, where he delivered commercials and assorted voice-overs, and became Dick Cavett's announcer during his short-lived challenge to Johnny Carson's *Tonight Show*.

Turn to FOY, p. C-4



—Journal-Bulletin Photo by THERESE FRARE

ECHO OF THE OLD WEST: Fred Foy, the former radio voice of the Lone Ranger, displays comic book covers at his home in Reading, Mass.

Foy

Continued from Page C-1

The fondest memories, however, surround the Lone Ranger radio days, before Clayton Moore and the late Jay Silverheels followed Brace Beemer and John Todd as the Lone Ranger and Tonto on TV.

Everything usually went pretty smoothly during the live radio broadcasts, Foy recalled — except for the times somebody goofed.

"There was a scene in which the Lone Ranger and Tonto were inside a hotel with two captured outlaws and the Ranger instructed Tonto to go into town to get the sheriff," Foy recalled. Tonto responded with his familiar "Ugh. Kemo Sabe, gettum' up Scout," and departed on his mission.

"Nobody caught the mistake, but I'll bet there were some listeners who wondered what Tonto's horse (Scout) was doing in the hotel," Foy laughed.

Although the Lone Ranger program was always broadcast live, there was never an audience in the studio, for a good reason.

The cast consisted of almost 20 actors and technicians dressed in business suits or casual sports clothes, all gathered around a single suspended microphone. Thanks to sound effects and dialogue, the radio audience could easily imagine the Lone Ranger, Tonto, and the others in the typical Western clothing and surroundings of the 1800s.

In fact, Tonto (John Todd) was a middle-aged Irishman, an ex-Shakespearean actor with a slight potbelly, thinning hair, horn-rimmed eyeglasses and a natty bow tie at the neck of his white shirt.

"The whole illusion of the show would have been destroyed," Foy said.

Brace Beemer was the announcer for the original Lone Ranger show when Earl Grazer played the role during the 1930s. Beemer assumed the leading role when Grazer was killed in an auto accident.

"By the time television came along, Brace was no longer a young leading man, so they needed someone to fit the Lone Ranger role visually," Foy said. Clayton Moore became the new masked man "but I never met him or Mr. Silverheels." Beemer died of a heart attack at his Michigan home during the 1960s.

Commutes to Detroit, New York

Foy is now semiretired and commutes frequently to New York and Detroit in his part-time work of voice-over assignments at a large recording agency. "You know, those TV commercials that advertise Arthur Fiedler or Great Waltzes tapes and albums," he said. "I prefer this type of freelancing rather than doing menial tasks in some studio."

He believes modern radio programming has become "the empire of the disc jockey. I feel that the days of those kinds of radio shows that we did are gone forever. And it's unfortunate. There's no imagination today. Orson Welles described imagination as the theatre of the mind. Today, everything is visual."

Once more, in a fitting conclusion, Foy reached for the microphone, and launched the emotional ending that no Lone Ranger radio fan can ever forget:

"Who was that masked man?" he asked. "Why, he was the Lone Ranger!"

Hoofbeats drumming in the distance, the William Tell Overture rising to a crescendo, then the stirring farewell fading with the hero into the sunset:

Hi Yo, SIL-ver! A-WAAAayy!